



**United Union
Of Roofers,
Waterproofers
And
Allied Workers**

Affiliated with AFL-CIO
And Building and
Construction Trades
Department

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Harold F. Davidson. Jr.
Business Manager
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Mr. Chairman & Members of the labor committee.

My name is Butch Davidson, I reside at 74 Abbey Road in East Hampton. I am currently the Business Manager, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Roofers / Waterproofers Local 12. I represent the hard working Unionized Roofers and Waterproofers here in Connecticut. I am here in opposition to Bill 5377 that would raise the thresholds on new construction and renovations into the stratosphere. I consider the proposed bill an all-out assault on Connecticut's Construction Workers.

My Members in effect, would be paying their tax dollars to the cities and towns where they reside. Those same cities and towns then would collect those taxes, and in return use those same tax dollars against their own residents. Whereby, undermining those very residents ability to make a living wage in their own communities.

Both political parties claim to support middle class jobs. Study after study shows the positive effects good paying jobs have on communities across this nation. I find it disturbing that the Unionized Construction Industry that takes care of it's own, by providing comprehensive health care and pension benefits to our Members and their families at no cost to the State, must continually explain our worth.

Chasing the lowest bid for construction just plain costs more money! The workers on such projects have inadequate or non-existent health care. We, as taxpayers, pay for that. The State must pick up the slack. We the taxpayer pay again!

In closing, I must say I am shocked and appalled that such an anti-worker bill has come out of the Labor Committee. Over the last 21 years from the pulpit at our Union Hall I have hailed the Democrats as those that champion working class people. We will no longer favor one political party over another. We will seek out individuals, Democrat, Republican and Independent. Representatives that promote a fair economy for business and workers in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Butch Davidson
Business Manager
Roofers Waterproofers Local 12